

REMARKS

Claims 25-47 are currently pending. The Examiner rejected claims 25-29, 38-39, and 45 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,615,223 to Shih ("Shih"). The Examiner indicated that claims 30-37, 40-44, and 46 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner allowed claim 47.

Formal Drawings

The Examiner required formal drawings be submitted in response to the Office Action. Applicants comply and submit 15 sheets of formal drawings, which include Figures 1-15.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner alleges that Shih discloses each and every element of independent claim 25 and dependent claims 26-29, 38-39, and 45. Claim 25, a method for data maintenance in an offline-distributed database network system, recites, *inter alia*, "transmitting a replication object including the change information, if an online connection is available, from said at least one of the node systems to the central system or from the central system to said at least one of the node systems, the recipients of the replication object being determined based on at least one lookup table in the central system."

Shih does not disclose at least such a transmitting step. The Examiner relies on column 5, lines 6-38, of Shih as allegedly disclosing the transmitting step of claim 25. This passage of Shih describes how *peer to peer replication* of data changes can be achieved even though the data may be stored in different schema or system

configurations within each replication site in the replication environment. Shih teaches sending a generic format change record 20 by means of adding it to a record table 24 that is replicated to *each and every other replication site in the system*. Col. 5, lines 16-29. Neither in this passage nor anywhere else in Shih are the “recipients of the replication object . . . determined based on at least one lookup table in the central system.” Accordingly, for at least the above reason, Shih does not anticipate independent claim 25.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 25 and each claim directly or indirectly dependent from it (claims 26-29, 38-39, and 45) as they are patentable over Shih for at least the reasons outlined above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants respectfully submit that, for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 25, claims 30-37, 40-44, and 46 are patentable as currently presented. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to these claims be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

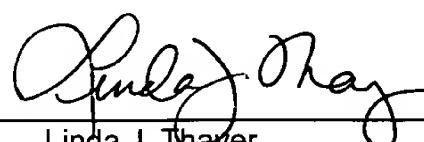
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 12, 2004

By:


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Attachments: 15 Drawing Sheets, Figures 1-15.